

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 6

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to congratulate United States Ambassador to Poland Victor Ashe, former member of the Tennessee General Assembly, on his work on behalf of all Tennesseans and Americans.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to our colleagues who have achieved great heights in the realm of public service; and

WHEREAS, Victor Henderson Ashe of Knoxville, a former member of both the Tennessee House of Representatives and Tennessee Senate, has served with distinction for over four years as the United States of America's Ambassador to the Republic of Poland; and

WHEREAS, former Senator Ashe was a very active member of the General Assembly in both chambers for fifteen years, and he authored Tennessee's Natural Areas Preservation Act, the Presidential Primary Act, and the Scenic Routes Act, among many other important pieces of legislation; and

WHEREAS, Victor Ashe served astutely as Executive Director of the Americans Outdoors Commission from July 1985 to January 1987, which then Governor Lamar Alexander chaired by appointment of President Reagan; and

WHEREAS, Victor Ashe served an unprecedented sixteen years as Mayor of Tennessee's third largest city, Knoxville, from 1988 to 2003; and

WHEREAS, during his illustrious tenure as Mayor, he was elected President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and President of the Tennessee Municipal League and expanded the number of greenways and parks in Knoxville by a factor of four; and

WHEREAS, Victor Ashe appointed the first African American to head a city department in Knoxville and secured accreditation for the Knoxville Police Department as Mayor; and

WHEREAS, recognizing his singular talents and dedication, Presidents Clinton, George H.W. Bush, and Ronald Reagan all appointed him to serve on various boards and commissions of the federal government; and

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush nominated Victor Ashe to serve as America's 24th Ambassador to the Republic of Poland in April 2004, and he was confirmed by the Senate in May 2004; he presented his credentials as Ambassador to the President of Poland in August 2004 in Warsaw at the Presidential Palace; and

WHEREAS, Poland, one of America's strongest allies, has recently signed an agreement for a missile defense to be located on Polish soil, and is home to many American businesses; and

WHEREAS, Ambassador Ashe has been a very active Ambassador and has travelled to all parts of Poland, including visits to over 160 Polish cities, and has created lasting ties which had previously not existed; and

WHEREAS, Ambassador Ashe will be completing his distinguished service in Poland in 2009, as well as having served an unprecedented sixteen years as Mayor of Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, his personal and professional accomplishments aside, Victor Ashe is fortunate to share love and companionship with his wife, Joan Isabelle Plumlee Ashe, and their children, J. Victor and Martha; and

WHEREAS, Victor Ashe has compiled an impressive record as a public servant during his exemplary career, in Tennessee and abroad, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that Ambassador Victor Henderson Ashe be honored and congratulated on his years of public service to the people of Knoxville, Tennessee, and now all of America in our Department of State. We wish Ambassador Ashe all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be forwarded to Ambassador Ashe at his home in Knoxville, Tennessee at 3709 Kingston Pike, with this final clause omitted from such copy.